

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 08564 01 OF 02 241739Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 8564

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PINR, IT, EFIN
SUBJECT: THE APPROACHING ITALIAN LABOR CONVENTIONS

REF: ROME 4046

1. SUMMARY. ITALY'S THREE MAJOR LABOR CONFEDERATIONS ARE ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE ACTIVITY AS THEIR QUADRENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS--EACH TO BE HELD IN JUNE--APPROACH. IN THE COMMUNIST-DOMIHATED CGIL, A NUMBER OF NOTABLE PERSONNEL CHANGES WILL BE MADE AT THE TOP, ALTHOUGH SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA IS SERENELY SECURE IN HIS POST. IN THE BEST COMMUNIST TRADITION, THE CGIL CONVENTION IS SURE TO BE THE LEAST CONTENTIOUS OF THE THREE. IN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-ORIENTED CISL, LUIGI MACARIO'S ACCESSION TO THE TOP POST SEEMS ASSURED. IN THE REAL BATTLE FOR THE SUCCESSION, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 08564 01 OF 02 241739Z

NAMELY, IN THE CONTEST FOR THE NUMBER TWO SLOT, THE REDICALS HAVE FORGED TO THE FRONT THANKS, IN PART, TO SOME DUBIOUS TACTICS IN THE DELEGATE-SELECTION PROCESS. BE-COMING ALARMED, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS SAID TO BE MOUNTING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO SWAY THE CONVENTION TOWARD MARINI'S MODERATES. AT THE UIL, SOCIALIST HEGEMONY IN THE PERSON OF SECRETARY GENERAL BENVENUTO SEEMS UN-

CHALLENGEABLE. EVEN EX-SECRETARY GENERAL VANNI SEEMS
RESIGNED TO THE NEW ORDER. END SUMMARY

2. ITALY'S TRADE UNIONS ARE FRANTICALLY ENGAGED IN A VAST
AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS
WHICH EACH OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS WILL HOLD IN JUNE,
BEGINNING WITH THE CGIL ON JUNE 6. THE CONSTITUENT UNIONS
OF EACH OF THE CONFEDERATIONS--LITERALLY, SCORES OF
UNIONS--ARE HOLDING THEIR QUADRENNIAL CONVENTIONS IN
THESE DAYS. THE SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE CONFEDERAL
CONVENTIONS IS PART OF THIS PROCESS.

3. THIS INTENSE ACTIVITY HAS NOT ATTRACTED A GREAT DEAL OF
PUBLIC ATTENTION, PARTLY BECAUSE OF ITS SOMEWHAT RECONDITE
NATURE, BUT LARGELY BECAUSE RECENT OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE,
AS WELL AS THE ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN THE VARIOS POLITICAL
PARTIES (PLUS THE CLIMAX OF THE SOCCER SEASON) HAVE
PRE-EMPTED NEWS COVERAGE.

3. IN THE CGIL, A NUMBER OF TOP-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES
ARE CLEARLY IN THE OFFING. BRUNO TRENTIN (PCI),
HERETOFORE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE POWERFUL METAL
WORKERS UNION (FIOM), WILL BECOME A NATIONAL SECRETARY,
ALONG WITH FELICIANO ROSSITTO (PCI), NOW SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (FEDERBARCCANTI). THEIR
REPLACEMENTS, RESPECTIVELY, ARE PIO GALLI (PCI), FIOM
NATIONAL SECRETARY, AND DONATELLA TURTURA (PCI),
FEDERBRACCIANTI NATIONAL SECRETARY. TURTURA IS THUS
SAID TO BECOME THE HIGHEST RANKING WOMAN EVER IN THE
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PAGE 03 ROME 08564 01 OF 02 241739Z

ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT.

4. TWO CGIL NATIONAL SECRETARIES ARE LEAVING THEIR
POSTS: ARVEDO FORNI (PCI) IS TO BECOME VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (INPS):
FORMER CISL NATIONAL SECRETARY GIUSEPPE REGGIO HAS JUST
TAKEN OVER AS INPS PRESIDENT. GIUSEPPE VIGNOLA (PCI)
LEAVES TO BECOME REGIONAL CGIL SECRETARY IN CAMPANIA.
AS LONG SINCE INDICATED, AGOSTINO MARIANETTI (PSI) WILL
BECOME THE NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CGIL,
REPLACING HIS FELLOW SOCIALIST PIERO BONI WHO RESIGNED
A FEW MONTHS AGO. IT IS SAID THAT CGIL NATIONAL SECRETARY
ALDO BONACCINI (PCI), IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
MAYBE SQUEEZED OUT, OSTENSIBLY FOR BEING OVERLY MODERATE.
OTHERS SAY THAT RINALDO SCHEDA (PCI), GENERALLY REGARDED
AS THE LEADING HARD-NOSED COMMUNIST IN THE CGIL, WILL BE
LEAVING THE SECRETARIAT SOON, THOUGH NOT AT THE CON-
VENTION.

5. COMMENT. THE CGIL APPEARS TO BE THE MOST RANQUIL OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS, DESPITE LAMA'S RECENT RUDE TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF RADICAL STUDENTS AND DESPITE THE PRBLEMS THE ORGANIZATION IS EXPERIENCING AMONG SOME OF THE RANK-AND-FILE AS A RESULT OF ITS DETERMINEDLY MODERATE POLICIES. OF COURSE, THIS APPREARANCE OF RELATIVE CALM MAY SIMPLY DERIVE FROM THE FACT THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF CONTACTS, WE KNOW MUCH LESS BOUT THEM. END COMMENT.

6. THE MAIN CONTEST IN THE CISL CONTINUES TO BE FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, THE SLOT VACATED BY LUIGI MACARIO WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE AFFIRMED AS THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL. THE CURRENT CONSENSUS IS THAT PEIRRE CARNITI, LEADER OF THE CISL LEFT WING, IS THE FRONT RUNNER OVER FRANCO MARINI BY A 55-45 MARGIN. MANIPULATIVE USE OF THE DELEGATE SELECTION SYSTEM HAS REINFORCED CARNITTI'S CHANCES. EXAMPLE: RECENTLY IN MILAN, THE RADICALS RAN
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PAGE 04 ROME 08564 01 OF 02 241739Z

TWO SLATES OF DELEGATES, THUS TOTALLY SHUTTING OUT THE MARINI SLATE ALTHOUGH THE LATTER COMMANDED ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE VOTES. ALSO, AS INDICATED TO US RECENTLY BY LABOR MINISTER ANSELM (ROME'S 7645), THE MODERATE CAMPAIGN IS NOT BEING WAGED VERY EFFICIENTLY.

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PAGE 01 ROME 08564 02 OF 02 241825Z
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 8564

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7. THIS HAS LED TO AN UNSIGNED, FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN THE MAY 22 EDITION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DAILY, IL POPOLO, INVEIGHING AGAINST "THE INTERFERENCE" IN CISL AFFAIRS "OF MEN, OF IDEAS, OF METHODS TOTALLY EXTRANEIOUS TO THE TRADITION OF DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISM, PARTICULARLY OF THE CATHOLIC VARIETY. ONE CANNOT OTHERWISE EXPLAIN," THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES,"THE EXPLOITATIVE USE OF CERTAIN ELECTORAL MECHANISMS WHICH ENABLE CERTAN
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PAGE 02 ROME 08564 02 OF 02 241825Z

POWERFUL GROUPS TO EXCLUDE ANY FORM OF ORGANIZED DIVERSIFICATION." THE EDITORIAL, CLEARLY INTENDED AS THE DC'S OFFICIAL VOICE, STATES THAT "WHILE INSIDE THE FACTORIES ONE CAN NOTE A SIGNIFICANT DEMOBILIZATION OF POLEMICAL ATTITUDES AGAINST THE DC,... IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF CISL...THERE PERSIST HARSH TONES WHICH BETRAY A STUDIED HOSTILITY TOWARD A BODY OF VALUES WHICH INDEED ARE PART OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF ALL THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "WE ARE NOT DEMANDING A COUNT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION CARDS. BUT FULL RESPECT FOR INTERNAL POSTIONS? YES."

8. WE ARE TOLD THIS EDITORIAL IS THE OPENING SALVO IN A COORDINATED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC EFFORT TO HELP SWING THE CISL CONVENTION TOWARD THE MARINI CAMP. DC LEADER ALSO MORO IS EXPECTED TO SPEAK OUT IN COMING DAYS PARTY SECRETARY BENINO ZACCAGNINI IS SUPPOSED TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE CISL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION (FISBA) WHICH IS HEADED BY LEADING MODERATE PAOLO SARTORI: NO PROMINEN DC OFFICIAL HAS ATTENDED ANY OF THE CONVENTIONS HEADED BY RADICAL ELEMENTS. FINALLY, A GROUP OF 32 DC PARLIAMENTARIANS, LED BY SANDRA CODAZZI (EX-CISL TEXTILE WORKERS OFFICIAL) AHS CAUCUSED IN RECENT DAYS TO DISCUSS WHAT CAN AND OUGHT TO BE DONE TO INFLUENCE CISL EVENTS IN FAVOR OF THE MARINI CANDIDACY.

9. COMMENT. MARINI'S CHANCES LOOKED BETTER A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, BUT CARNITI'S NATURAL STRENGTHS AS EXEMPLAR OF THE INDUSTRIAL UNIONS VS. MARINI'S PUBLIC SERVICES/AGRICULTURAL MIX, ARE COMING TO THE FORE. WHEN THIS IS COUPLED WITH THE PROCEDURAL STRATEGEMS DESCRIBED ABOVE, TOGETHER WITH SOME APPARENT INEPTITUDE IN THE MODERATE CAMP, THE CURRENT ESTIMATES IN RELATIVE STRENGTH SEEM CREDIBLE. IT SHOULD BE ADDED THAT, EVEN IF THE CARNITI ASCENDANCY IS HALTED, CISL IS SLATED FOR A DOWN SWING OVER THE NEAR TERM. MACARIO, WHOSE HEART IS ALMOST
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PAGE 03 ROME 08564 02 OF 02 241825Z

SURELY IN THE RADICAL CAMP, IS A PERSONAGE OF ASSUREDLY MODEST CAPACITIES. HE SEEMS FATED TO RUN A POOR THIRD TO LAMA'S SAGE, REFLECTIVE, CONFIDENT IMAGE AND BENVENUTO'S OMNIPRESENCE. END COMMENT.

10. UIL SECRETARY GENERAL GIORIO BENVENUTO (PSI) WOULD APPEAR TO BE RATHER FIRMLY ENTRENCHED. BY HIS OWN PRIVATE TESTIMONY, AT LEAST, HIS RELATIONS WITH RAFFAELE VANNI (PRI), THE MAN HE SO UNCEREMONIOUSLY DEPOSED LAST NOVEMBER, ARE IMPROVING. BOTH THE REPUBLICANS AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE SEEMINGLY DIMINISHED IN STRENGTH IN RECENT MONTHS. THE REPUBLICAN CHARGE THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAVE BEEN "PAPERING" THEIR MEMBERSHIP CLAIMS, I.E., PAYING DUES FOR NON-EXISTENT PSI ADHERENTS, HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FOR SOME TIME NOW, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT IS ANYTHING BUT A NOVEL PRACTICE WITHIN THE UIL. SOME SOCIAL DEMOCRATES ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HAVING LENT THEMSELVES TO VANNI'S DEFENESTRATION, BUT THIS JUST MEANS THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, SPLIT AMONG THEMSELVES, HAVE EVEN LESS TO SAY ABOUT THE FORMATION OF UIL POLICY.

11. SOME PERSONALITY CHANGES ARE EXPECTED IN UIL TOP RANKS. BENVENUTO TELLS US THAT THE SOCIALISTS PECCI AND MANFRON WILL LEAVE THE SECRETARIAT. THEIR REPLACEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED, BUT IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THAT THEY WILL BE BENVENUTO LOYALISTS. MUCI (PSDI) WILL PROBABLY BE REPLACED BY PEIR LUIGI BERTINELLI (PSDI), A MUCH YOUNGER MAN. THE REPUBLICANS (VANNI, ROSSI AND LUCIANI) WILL PROBABLY REMAIN UNCHANGED.

12. COMMENT. BENVENUTO RUNS THE UIL VIRTUALLY AS A ONE-MAN SHOW. AS AN EXAMPLE OF HIS UBIQUITY, THE CISL METAL WORKERS UNION (FIOM) HAS CONDUCTED A STUDY SHOWING THAT OVER A RECENT PERIOD BENVENUTO APPEARED ON TV FOR A TOTAL OF 54 MINUTES, COMPARED WITH 29 MINUTES FOR LAMA AND 9
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PAGE 04 ROME 08564 02 OF 02 241825Z

FOR MACARIO: NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS WITH LABOR LEADERS OVER THE YEAR'S FIRST QUARTER INVOLVED BENVENUTO. IT IS HARD, WHEN TALKING THAT MUCH, TO MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT LINE AND BENVENUTO HARDLY SEEMS TO TRY. IT IS TIME, AS HE ASSERTS, THAT HE IS CONDUCTING AN ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN. IT IS EQUALLY TRUE THAT THIS ANTI-COMMUNISM HAS LARGELY COINCIDED WITH THE COMMUNIST SHIFT TO A MODERATE POLICY. END COMMENT.

13. THE CGIL CLAIMS 4,316,999 MEMBERS. AT THE CONVENTION IN RIMINI (JUNE 6-11), THERE WILL BE 1,524 DELEGATES (AVERAGE AGE 35; 15 PERCENT OF WOMEN), 744 OF THEM ELECTED BY CONSTITUENT UNIONS AND 780 BY REGIONAL/PROVINCIAL UNION ORGANIZATIONS. AT THE CISL CONVENTION IN ROME (JUNE 14-18), THE 2,800,000 MEMBERS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY 1,012 DELEGATES, OF WHOM 539 ARE ELECTED BY THE CONSTITUENT UNIONS AND 473 BY THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE UIL CLAIMS 11,100,000 MEMBERS. THEY WILL SEND 76 DELEGATES TO THEIR CONVENTION IN BOLOGNA (JUNE 29-JULY 3), 303 OF THEM SELECTED BY THE CONSTITUENT UNIONS AND 443 FROM THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

14. COMMENT. WHILE THE UNIONS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS, THE ITALIAN GENIUS FOR VARIANTS ON THE STRIKE IS NOT LYING FALLOW. AT PRESENT IN A PHILLIPS PLANT IN MILAN, MEN AND WOMEN ARE ON STRIKE ON ALTERNATE DAYS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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